

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BEAUMONT DIVISION

LEO SIVERAND

§

VS.

§

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:06cv50

JOHN A. RUPERT, ET AL.

§

**MEMORANDUM OPINION REGARDING TRANSFER**

Plaintiff Leo Siverand, an inmate confined at the Telford Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, proceeding *pro se*, filed this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against employees of the Telford Unit.

**Discussion**

The Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1981, *et seq.*, under which this case is brought, does not contain a specific venue provision. Accordingly, venue in civil rights cases is controlled by 28 U.S.C. § 1391. *Jones v. Bailey*, 58 F.R.D. 453 (N.D. Ga. 1972); *aff'd per curiam*, 480 F.2d 805 (5th Cir. 1973).

When, as in this case, jurisdiction is not founded solely on diversity of citizenship, 28 U.S.C. § 1391 provides that venue is proper only in the judicial district where the defendants reside or in which the claim arose. However, under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a), for the convenience of parties and witnesses and in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where it could have been brought. Such a transfer may be done *sua sponte* and is reviewable only for an abuse of discretion. *Mills v. Beech Aircraft Corp.*, 886 F.2d 758, 761 (5th Cir. 1989).

Plaintiff complains of incidents that occurred at the Telford Unit. The Telford Unit is located in the Texarkana Division of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. However, this case was filed in the Beaumont Division. The court has considered the circumstances and has determined that the interest of justice would best be served if the complaint were transferred to the division in which the claims arose and where the defendants reside. Therefore, the case should be transferred to the Texarkana Division of the Eastern District of Texas. An order so providing will be entered by the undersigned.

**SIGNED** this 2 day of February, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith F. Giblin", written over a horizontal line.

KEITH F. GIBLIN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE